TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Mental health is essential to everyone’s overall health and well-being; and

WHEREAS: Mental health conditions are real and prevalent in our nation; and

WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas recognizes that children’s mental health is important, and positive mental health is critical to a child’s healthy development; and

WHEREAS: Prevention is an effective way to reduce the burden of mental health conditions; and

WHEREAS: All Americans experience times of difficulty and stress in their lives; and

WHEREAS: Research has shown that diet, exercise, sleep, and stress management can help Americans protect their mental health and well-being; and

WHEREAS: With effective treatment, most individuals with mental health conditions can recover and lead full, productive lives; and

WHEREAS: Each citizen, business, school, government agency, healthcare provider, and organization shares the burden of mental health problems and has a responsibility to promote mental wellness and support prevention efforts;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim May 2021, as

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH IN ARKANSAS

across the state, and I call upon the citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools in Arkansas to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health, the steps our citizens can take to protect their mental health, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental health conditions before the condition reaches a critical stage.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 20th day of April, in the year of our Lord 2021.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

John Thurston, Secretary of State